

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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TO USLO PEKING

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SUBJECT:NOMINATION PRESS SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 12, 1975

1. WIDE COVERAGE OF CHURCH'S 45-MINUTE SENATE SPEECH TUESDAY URGING REJECTION BUSH CIA NOMINATION. NYDN'S VOLZ OBSERVES THAT SO FAR SOME SENATE DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN SKEPTICAL, BUT HAVE REFUSED FLATLY OPPOSE BUSH. SAYS HART'S (COLO) MIND NOT MADE UP; SYMINGTON, JACKSON HAVE TAKEN WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE--FORMER CONTENDING HE SEES "NO REASON" SO FAR TO BLOCK NOMINATION, LATTER, HAS "VERY STRONG RESERVATIONS," HAS NOT MADE UP HIS MIND. ACCORDING WP'S LARDNER, JACKSON HAS INDICATED HE MAY OPPOSE BUSH. HORROCK (NYT) SAYS HART (COLO) HAS VOICED RESERVATIONS.

2. TOWER CHALLENGED CHURCH VIEW RE BUSH, TOLD REPORTERS TUESDAY THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT CIA POLITICIZATION SHOULD BE AS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICIZATION INVESTIGATIONS OF AGENCY (PHINQ). TOWER ADDED THAT OPPOSITION TO BUSH "FAIRLY VOCAL," BUT NOT WIDESPREAD SO FAR AS HE COULD SEE, AT LEAST NOW; ADDED HE SAW NOTHING WRONG WITH BUSH'S CREDENTIALS (LARDNER).

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3. HORROCK REPORTS BUCKLEY JOINED TOWER IN VOICING
SUPPORT FOR BUSH. TOWER SAID NOMINEE HAS "RIGHT KIND

OF INTELLECT, THE RIGHT KIND OF CHARACTER AND THE RIGHT
PERSONALITY" FOR JOB. AMONG OTHER MEMBERS CHURCH CMTE,
MONDALE, HART (MICH), MORGAN HAVE MADE NO PUBLIC
STATEMENT. TOWER HAS BEEN JOINED IN SUPPORT FOR BUSH
BY GOLDWATER; BAKER, SCHWEIKER NOT EXPECTED OPPOSE BUSH;
MATHIAS HAS MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT.

4. LAT'S DONOVAN (11/9) THINKS BEFORE SNOW FLIES,
PRES/BUSH MAY COME UP AGAINST WHALE OF CONFIRMATION
FIGHT; AND EVEN IF BUSH FINALLY SURVIVES, FORD GOING
FIND HIMSELF WITH DOD AND CIA IN INEXPERIENCED HANDS FOR
MONTHS TO COME; FEW MEN MASTER THOSE JOBS QUICKLY.

5. GEORGE WILL (WP, SUN) SUGGESTS BUSH MAY NOT HAVE
WORRY ABOUT CIA ATTACHMENT BECOMING POLITICAL HANDICAP--
SENATE MAY REFUSE CONFIRM HIM. HE IS ONE OF "FORD'S
GUYS, WHICH IS FINE. BUT AT THE CIA HE WOULD BE THE
WRONG KIND OF GUY AT THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WORST
POSSIBLE TIME." CONTENDS, AS GOP NATL CMTE DURING
WATERGATE, BUSH WAS VERY CONSIDERATE ABOUT MAN WHO
APPOINTED HIM; IN SPITE OF ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, "HE
NEVER EXPRESSED INDEPENDENT JUDGMENTS INCONVENIENT"
TO NIXON. MIGHT BE RASH TO EXPECT BUSH DISPLAY AT CIA
CAPACITY FOR POLITICALLY INCONVENIENT INDEPENDENCE IN
JUDGMENT, INTELLIGENCE; THAT IS WHY SENATE MAY ASK FORD
FOR ANOTHER NOMINEE.

6. EVANS/NOVAK DECLARE "WHOLLY PREDICTABLE STORM"
OVER BUSH NOMINATION HAS FORCED WH INTO "DANGEROUSLY
OVERDUE CALCULATION OF POLITICAL REALITIES," WITH
WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION NOW POSSIBILITY. SEE SITUATION
BOILING DOWN TO ONE ESSENTIAL: TO AVOID POSSIBLE SENATE
REJECTION NOMINATION, PRES MUST ABSOLUTELY RULE OUT ANY
POSSIBILITY BUSH WINDING UP AS HIS VP RUNNING MATE.
SAY FACT NO HEARINGS ON NOMINATION SCHEDULED FOR SEVERAL
WEEKS AT BEST, POSSIBLY NOT UNTIL NEXT YEAR, RAISES
QUESTION OF DELIBERATE STALL, BASED ON FORD'S
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"SUDDENLY-EXPRESSED DESIRE" KEEP BUSH AT USLO AT LEAST
UNTIL PRC TRIP. IF HEARINGS DELAYED UNTIL NEXT YEAR,
PRES COULD MAKE "ANOTHER MID-COURSE CORRECTION," GIVING
BUSH DIFFERENT POST THAT WOULD KEEP HIM AVAILABLE FOR
POSSIBLE VP NOMINATION. MAINTAIN "STILL ONE OF WASHINGTON'S
DARKER MYSTERIES" IS WHY FORD CHOSE PUT "LONG-SUFFERING
BUSH THROUGH SUCH A WRINGER WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE
POLITICAL REALITIES." KISSINGER

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